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THE NEW WHITE NAVY.

The August number of the Pacific monthly, an excellent Portland periodical, contains an interesting article by Waldon Fawcett on the development of the United States navy. Mr. Fawcett takes his readers through our navy-building stage from the civil war to the present date, reciting the progress made by our country in adding to its sea strength.

Just at the present time the United States ranks third among the naval powers in point of tonnage, and undeniably first in point of excellence. France holds second place, and Mr. Fawcett expresses the opinion that she will continue to do so, notwithstanding that we are now building war vessels of displacement almost as great as that combined of the entire present fleet. We have in service 11 first class battleships, whereas there are now building a total of 13 first class battleships, not to mention the battleship New Hampshire, which was authorized by the last congress.

A better idea of the upbuilding of our navy can be gained from a comparison of the tonnage in service and building. In service we have vessels of aggregate tonnage of 531,886, with total indicated horsepower of 767,088. Building are vessels of aggregate tonnage of 349,431 and indicated horsepower smaller ships of our navy, whereas the vessels building are principally of the larger type. Great Britain's total naval tonnage is 1,485,105, while France boasts tonnage of 781,754. When our new vessels are all in service our total tonnage will be 881,317. Meantime, however, France will probably build enough ships to maintain her rank.

A death-dealing fleet of eight armored cruisers will soon be in commission. These vessels are the California, Colorado, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. The eight cruisers will be of the same type, each of the length of 502 feet, of 23,000 to 25,000 horsepower and capable of speed of more than 25 miles an hour. They are heavily armored, with almost as much protection in this respect as the great battleships. Two other armored cruisers, the North Carolina and the Montana, and three scout cruisers are also building. This fleet of 11 vessels would certainly present a formidable front to any enemy and give of itself an account in war that would afford us as much joy as the magnificent performance of our beloved Oregon. The fleet of eight cruisers mentioned are vessels 52 feet longer than the battleships Connecticut and Louisiana, now building, which are 450 feet in length and of 16,000 tons displacement.

When Uncle Sam gets his new boats in the water he will be amply able to cope with any adversary. There is no surer safeguard than a great navy, nor any surer preventative of war. We can get along very nicely with a small army of 100,000 men, but we want all the battleships and cruisers that our government finds it convenient to build.

MEREDITH ON THE BRITISH ARMY.

In the London Daily Chronicle of a recent issue George Meredith, last of the great Victorian novelists and now an old man waiting for death, emerges from the long silence of the sickroom to express himself with characteristic vigor upon leading questions of the day in England and in the broader world theater. Together with some caustic comments upon the trend of the church, the drift of politics and the present aspect of literature and journalism, the aged novelist has to say concerning the British army and British loyalty much which must carry a barbed sting to the self-satisfied military caste in the United Kingdom.

"All our battles are soldiers' battles," says Meredith, "and our army will remain a chaos as long as it is controlled by a singularly unintellectual, ill-educated and unbusinesslike class. The Salvation Army might teach them a lesson, or our railway companies."

"The fear of death is the real cause of the English objection to conscription," continues Meredith in elucidating the broader aspect of what seems to him the decadence of the military spirit. "Men come to me and say their trade would suffer, or they could not spare two years from their apprenticeship. Their real meaning is they are afraid of being called out and getting shot at. So they pay others to do the

killing and dying for them. As it is 80,000 Germans could march through England from end to end."

That is right from the shoulder. It tells plain things in a plain way, plainer even than Kipling has put them in his poems to the glorification of Tommy Atkins. Judging from editorial comment upon these utterances the cap fits the British head so snugly that it binds somewhat and galls not a little. With the enormous debt for the years of fighting necessary to reduce the Boers looming large before them, our friends across the pond believe that they see thus put boldly into print what they have dared only to think since Spion Kop and Colenso. "Is it true?" is not so universal a question as "How long has it been true?"

Being distinctly a military nation, Great Britain tolerates open discussion of the inside operations of its army very little more gracefully than does Kaiser William. To the masses there, as to the world outside, it is only the occasional incident given publicity that may point the wind. Very fresh in the minds of all Edward's subjects are the recent investigations into the conduct of the war in South Africa, which disclosed some very ugly revelations of incompetency in high places and even cowardice where cowardice should be least expected. There followed the drastic measures of army reorganization, and the incident was closed to public view.

George Meredith has spoken fearlessly and for the good of the British. Such utterances should strike home. Even though they come from an old man and one presumed by reason of his trade to be impractical, they ring of truth.

AS TO MARRIAGES.

Governor Warfield of Maryland is the latest mature man to forget his youth and rise up to tell the young to be guided by their judgment and not their instinct and fancy in choosing life partners. Not until a girl is 26, he told the maidens of the Wilmington high school graduating class, is she able to select a husband with intelligent discrimination. And in a subsequent interview Governor Warfield made bold to say:

"Young people are impressionable and romantic, and if left to their own free will are apt to rush into matrimony without properly considering the grave responsibilities of married life. Many cases have come under my observation where youthful and hasty marriages have resulted in unhappiness. There are many serious questions to be considered in deciding upon this most important step. Health, heredity, environment, taste and social tendencies—all should be carefully weighted if a happy married life is desired."

Good sense, undoubted good sense, comments the Examiner. There's no disputing it. Yet it inevitably recalls the story told by Jerome K. Jerome of the discreet young man who was not headstrong and listened with respect to the counsel of his elders—all of whom had, of course, married with deliberation. He saw, did this judicious young man, that his elders, like Governor Warfield, spoke truly when they held that marriage was the supreme event in one's life, and therefore should not be taken on impulse. So he looked about him and fixed on a girl who had every qualification for wifehood—she was modest, intelligent, pretty, sweet, yielding and affectionate. He married her, and at the end of a year admitted to Mr. Jerome that she was all that any reasonable man could ask for—modest, intelligent, pretty, sweet, yielding and affectionate—only he didn't like her.

Mother Nature is wiser than many Governor Warfields. To her, after all is said, the great business of marriage must be left. It always has been left to her, and will continue to be left, no matter what the Governor Warfields in their wisdom and prudence may say. Love laughs at governors.

Building progress is a pretty sure sign of the times. There is scarcely a block in Astoria on which new buildings are not being erected, and the clamor for houses is even greater now than heretofore, although the structures in course of construction have long since been rented. The state census next year will show some surprising results.

The Oregonian's suggestion that the salmon are remaining outside the river until the closed season commences is ridiculous. They are amusing themselves by watching the bathers at Clatsop beach.

A new cave has been discovered in Kentucky. If the Creator did not intend the state to manufacture moonshine whiskey, what, pray, were the caves intended for?

Mr. Root is having almost as much trouble in getting away from the governorship of New York as Mr. Cannon had in avoiding the vice presidency.

Russia is said to be preparing for another campaign to capture Manchuria, but no dates are mentioned this time.

It requires a high grade of nerve for a party to ask the voters to support a mystery and a checkbook.

Kuropakin has not been wounded in the shoulder—merely in the feelings.

Correct Clothes for Men



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JAILED FOR ANOTHER'S CRIME.

Englishman Served Seven Years in Prison Through Mistake.

London, Aug. 12.—The case of Adolph Beck, who, after serving seven years' penal servitude for the crime of which he was not guilty and being convicted a second time of frauds of which he was innocent, has been released on bail, is causing much talk in all parts of England. It is expected that Beck will soon receive a free pardon.

The trouble came about on account of a remarkable resemblance between Beck and a man named Thomas Smith. In 1877 Smith was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on a charge of obtaining jewelry and money from girls whose affections he had won while posing as a lord. Nineteen years later Beck was taken into custody on a similar charge, it being stated at that time he and Smith were one and the same man, although Beck declared that in the year 1877 he had been in South America.

Notwithstanding this, specimens of his handwriting were put in evidence, and an expert swore that it was identical with that of Smith. In addition to this, two or three young women testified that Beck was the man who had robbed and defrauded them. As a result the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and Beck was sentenced to penal servitude for seven years.

When he had completed his sentence Beck started out diligently to find the man whom he so much resembled and on whose account he had been sent to prison. He kept up his search for some time, but met with no success. Early in the spring he was arrested on similar charges to those for which he had previously been unjustly convicted. Again he protested his innocence, but, as on the previous occasion, women appeared and said that he was the man who had robbed and deceived them. The jury found him guilty, as had been the case in 1896. The judge seemed to have some doubts of Beck's guilt, and sentence was deferred.

In the mean time Beck succeeded in getting several prominent people interested in his case, and they became convinced that he was the victim of unfortunate circumstances. It so happened that a few days ago Thomas Smith was arrested, charged with committing frauds against susceptible young women. When he was arraigned several of the young women who had taken the stand against Beck were brought into court and acknowledged that they had been in error, and that Smith was the man who had swindled them. Later investigations convinced the detectives that Beck was entirely innocent, and upon representations made to the home office he was released on nominal bail.

BAD BREATH

"For months I had great trouble with my stomach and used all kinds of medicines. My tongue has been actually as green as grass, my breath having a bad odor. Two weeks ago a friend recommended Cascarets and after using them I can willingly and cheerfully say that they have entirely cured me. Therefore let you know that I shall recommend them to any one suffering from such troubles." Chas. H. Kilgus, 109 Livingston St., New York, N.Y.



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